

Illinois State Archives

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ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

Illinois

JUL 12 1985

Regional

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

Archives

Depository

System

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*Poll Book 1819
Militia Officers
Coffee Township*

Edwards County poll book.

JIM EDGAR
Secretary of State
and State Archivist

Origin: The Illinois Regional Archives Depository System (IRAD) collects local governmental records for use by researchers at six regional depositories located on state university campuses. The system was established in 1976 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Illinois State Archives. In 1978, the Illinois Secretary of State, who is also the State Archivist, assumed full funding of the program.

Purpose: Local officials, who are under pressure to dispose of administratively obsolete records, lack resources to keep records of lasting value. Simultaneously, there is a growing demand by genealogists, historians, and other researchers that these records be preserved and made accessible. IRAD fills these two distinct yet complementary needs. The system provides carefully controlled, secured space for records of permanent value, thus relieving local officials of a perplexing responsibility. Relocation of selected records to archival facilities increases their accessibility to researchers. Records that otherwise would be in danger of physical deterioration or actual loss can be located and preserved for the future.



Typical storage of records at county courthouse.

Structure: Under the direction of the Illinois State Archives, local public records of outstanding historical and legal value are transferred to depositories at six state universities. Each IRAD depository serves a clearly defined region of 14 to 23 contiguous counties. The Illinois State Archives is responsible for finding and identifying local records which meet the standards for transfer to a depository. Relocation of these records is then authorized by the Local Records Commission, according to the provisions of the Local Records Act.

Collections: The six regional depositories acquire local records which contain a broad range of information. These include circuit court case records, probate records, poll books and election returns, school board minutes, swamp land records, deed books, tax assessments, county board minutes and files, naturalization papers, and militia roll records. In a unique manner, the records at each IRAD center reflect the history and traditions of that region.

Patrons: The resources of the six IRAD centers are open to the public. Because they are irreplaceable, IRAD records must be used in the depository. Microfilm that is on deposit at one depository may be transferred to another, at the request of a patron. Each depository maintains a master list of the records that are available at the five other regional centers. In 1981, patron access to the records in the IRAD system was enhanced by the application of several computer programs. Self-explanatory listings of all records in the system, arranged by county and by subject descriptor, are available at each of the IRAD depositories.

In 1983, **A Guide To County Records In The Illinois Regional Archives** was published. It is a descriptive guide to the records available in the IRAD system. A use copy is



Intern assists patron in research.

available at each depository, or a copy may be purchased for \$5 from: Information Services/Guide, Illinois State Archives, Archives Building, Springfield, IL 62756. Make check payable to: Secretary of State.

Information: Telephone, mail, and in-person requests for information will be filled by IRAD staff at the depositories. All other requests, including 1) research on specific counties, from the computerized county listing, 2) information on the IRAD program and additional copies of this brochure, and 3) a ten-minute slide/tape program explaining the IRAD program should be addressed to:

IRAD Coordinator
Illinois State Archives
Archives Building
Springfield, IL 62756
Telephone: (217) 782-2226

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IRAD does not include Cook County.



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Depository Hours

- Monday-Friday: 8-12 noon, 1-4 p.m.
- Saturday-Sunday: closed.
- Closed on state holidays and any weekday the various libraries are closed.
- June and July: reduced summer hours.

Locations

Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920
Telephone: (217) 581-6093

Williams Hall
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761
Telephone: (309) 438-5525

Swen Parson Hall
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
Telephone: (815) 753-1779

Brookens Library
Sangamon State University
Springfield, IL 62708
Telephone: (217) 786-6520

Morris Library
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901
Telephone: (618) 453-3040

University Library
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
Telephone: (309) 298-2411, Ext. 272

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